



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

January 12, 2006

Dear Private School Administrator:

On December 30, 2005 the U.S. Congress passed H.R. 2863 and appropriated funds to provide “Temporary Emergency Aid for Displaced Students”. The provisions include funds to public, non-public (private) schools, and BIA schools in which students displaced by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita have enrolled. Therefore, an eligible non-public school that enrolled at least one student, due to Hurricane Katrina or Rita, is entitled to these funds. According to paragraph (b)(3) of the law governing Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students, the term “eligible non-public school” is defined as a *non-public elementary school or secondary school that a) is accredited or licensed or otherwise operates in accordance with State law; b) was in existence on August 22, 2005; and c) serves a displaced student*. Furthermore, sub-paragraph (b)(1) provides the definition of a “displaced” student. This term means *a student who enrolled in an elementary school or secondary school (other than the school that the student was enrolled in, or was eligible to be enrolled in, on August 22, 2005) because such student resides or resided on August 22, 2005, in an area for which a major disaster has been declared in accordance with section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170), related to Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita*.

Payments received from a local education agency (LEA) must be used by the non-public school only for purposes described in sub-paragraph (d)(2)(C) of the law governing Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students. This sub-paragraph states that *a non-public school accessing funds on behalf of a displaced student under this section must waive tuition, or reimburse tuition paid, in an amount equal to the amount accessed*.

The purpose of this letter is to alert you of the expedited timeline and process for applying for payments for Quarters 1 and 2. Additionally, information is needed/will be needed, by the LEA within whose boundaries the non-public school is located, regarding the number of students enrolled in the non-public school because they were displaced due to Hurricanes Katrina or Rita on each of 4 specified dates (October 1, 2005; December 1, 2005; February 1, 2006; April 1, 2006). The LEA will be contacting you and providing the attached forms. However, I wanted to let you know what will occur and provide the necessary forms to help expedite the procedure.

The procedure is as follows:

- LEAs will contact non-public schools located within their boundaries and supply the non-public school parent application and the non-public school administrator certification forms.
- Non-public school parents must complete the application and submit the form to the private school administrator no later than Monday, January 23, 2006.

- The non-public school administrator will submit the application(s) and a completed certification form to the LEA within whose boundaries the non-public school is located no later than Tuesday, January 24, 2006.
- LEAs will submit public and non-public school displaced student counts for funding to the SEA no later than Wednesday, January 25, 2006.

Note: in order to receive funding for the October 1st and December 1st dates the above time and dates deadlines must be met. No extension to the deadline is available.

In closing, please promptly ask the parents/guardians of any Hurricane Katrina or Rita displaced student that were enrolled in your private school on October 1 or December 1, 2005 to complete the attached application. This includes displaced students that have returned home, but were enrolled in your school on the specified dates. Additionally, please ensure that the applications and the certification form are submitted to the LEA, within whose boundaries your private school is located, no later than Tuesday, January 24, 2006.

All letters and forms will be available for download at <http://www.ade.az.gov/katrina>. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns. I can be reached by phone at (602) 542-3267, by email at jandrew@ade.az.gov, or fax at (602) 542-3100.

Sincerely,

Jill L. Andrews

Jill L. Andrews, Ed.D.
Education Program Specialist - Title I & Private Schools